

**Listing of Claims**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-17 (cancelled).

18. (currently amended) A method for blocking IL-18-induced NF $\kappa$ B activation in a mammal, the method comprising administering to a mammal an antibody that binds to a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 15-356 of SEQ ID NO:7, wherein the antibody blocks IL-18 stimulation of NF $\kappa$ B signaling.

19. (currently amended) A method for blocking IL-18-induced JNK activation in a mammal, the method comprising administering to a mammal an antibody that binds to a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 15-356 of SEQ ID NO:7, wherein the antibody blocks IL-18 induction of JNK signaling.

20. (withdrawn) An assay method comprising causing an antibody to contact a test agent and determining if the antibody binds to the agent, wherein the antibody binds a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 15-356 of SEQ ID NO:7.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a humanized antibody.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the mammal is a human.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a humanized antibody.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the mammal is a human.